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CITY of BEAVERTON

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BEAVERTON CITY COUNCIL FORWARDS PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER BOND MEASURE TO VOTERS

BEAVERTON, Ore. – The Beaverton City Council unanimously approved a resolution to refer a \$35 million bond measure to voters at the November election. The purpose of the measure is to significantly remodel the current City Hall into a modern public safety center.

The center would consolidate all of the city's police, court, and emergency management services under one roof, ensuring they would remain operational in the event of a major disaster. The move would also eliminate the city's current need to lease space for police functions, saving more than \$3.5 million over the life of the twenty-year bond.

"I applaud the Beaverton City Council for taking this step and bringing this issue to our voters. Make no mistake; this is a need, not a want. It is essential we have a consolidated public safety center. A 1980s office building will no longer meet our city's need," said Mayor Denny Doyle.

The plan to remodel the Griffith Drive building took hold after the City Council's decision to move city administrative services to the Beaverton Building at the Round. That move is scheduled to occur in August 2014, paving the way for the remodel. A citizen-led advisory committee made the recommendation to the Mayor and City Council. "Our citizens' committee reviewed many options and decided the most effective and financially sound solution is to remodel the existing city building," said Jim McCreight, chair of the Public Safety Center Advisory Committee.

In order to minimize the financial impact of the bond measure, the city is structuring the bond proposal to coincide with the retirement of the Beaverton City Library construction bonds set to expire in 2018. Coordinating the timing of these bond measures means the amount voters will be asked to pay to fund the public safety bond measure is very similar to the amount taxpayers are currently paying for the construction of the Beaverton City Library which opened in 2000.

In order to learn more about the public safety center needs, the city has established an ambitious public information effort, including offering tours of the current police department. "I welcome people to sign up and take a tour," said Chief Geoff Spalding. "Officers have led more than twenty tour groups so far, and the reaction from the public has been incredibly supportive."

As Julie Scholz, a citizen who recently toured the building, put it, “Walking through the pre-digital era safety facility, I am struck by how inefficient and inadequate it is, which compromises safety and job performance. It’s time for Beaverton public safety to join the 21st century—heck, even the 1990s would be an improvement.”

Police officers and volunteers will be out at all summer events answering questions and sharing information. You can get more information and sign up for tours of the police and court at www.renewforourblue.com.

ABOUT BEAVERTON

In 2014, Beaverton was again recognized as the **safest city** in the Pacific Northwest. In 2012, the city was awarded the **Mayors’ Climate Protection Award** from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. It was one of just four cities of its size recently recognized as a **"Smarter City" energy leader by the Natural Resources Defense Council** and **one of the 100 Best Places to Live in America** by *Money* magazine. In addition, Beaverton was named one of the **best places to raise kids** by *BusinessWeek* magazine, an **All-America City finalist**, as **one of the top 25 Suburbs for Retirement** by *Forbes.com*, **one of the 100 Best Walking Cities in America** by *Prevention* magazine, the **Recycler of the Year** from the Association of Oregon Recyclers, a **Tree City USA** by the Arbor Day Foundation, a **Bronze Award Bicycle Friendly Community** designation by the League of American Bicyclists and as one of the Environmental Protection Agency's **Green Power Communities**, the Beaverton Community Vision program was named **Public Involvement Project of the Year—Best Planning Project** by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Cascade Chapter. Beaverton also enjoys one of the most diverse populations in Oregon. For more information, reminders and community news, visit www.BeavertonOregon.gov, like the City of Beaverton on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CityofBeaverton, or follow on Twitter at www.twitter.com/CityofBeaverton.

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